

Questions For Consideration

- Ecuador and the United States negotiated a phase-one trade deal under the previous administration. How does this administration intend to approach its trading relationship with Ecuador?
- How does the administration intend to work with Central and South American countries on matters related to climate change and how will our trading relationships in the region be impacted by the administration's climate agenda?
- In recent years we have seen countries in South America, such as Argentina, make great strides toward improving gender equality for women through education and job opportunities. How do you plan to ensure that gender equality is a pursuit of all our trading partners?
- President Biden has said he plans to prioritize domestic investment in workers and infrastructure before pursuing any new free trade agreements, but regions like Central and South America were largely neglected by U.S. trade policy for the last four years. Does the administration intend to reengage in these regions? If so, realistically, when can we expect engagement?
- During the pandemic, China expanded its influence in Latin America and it is now South America's top trading partner. During the past four years, we saw the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Panama broaden ties with China by recognizing Beijing as China's capitol. We have also seen 19 governments across Latin America and the Caribbean join China's Belt and Road Initiative. These kinds of alliances can translate into increased power for Chinese appointees to multinational institutions like the U.N. And all of these changes are rooted in trade policy. How will the Biden Administration address this problem?
- Ms. Tai, a lot of conversation has focused on China. But I'd like to turn to a region of the world that saw much less attention from the United States during the last administration -- Central and South America. Geographically, strong economic ties between the United States and Central and South America makes sense. It also seems to me like there trade has played such an important role in this region, the Biden Administration should prioritize growing trade relations in the hemisphere. What are your priorities in Central and South America?
- No doubt, a lot of U.S. trade policy will be focused on addressing China's trade abuses. But part of that response depends on strong trade relations with our allies -- especially those allies in Central and South America, where China is working hard to increase its economic influence. At the same time, we have heard from President Biden and several of his cabinet nominees the administration plans to focus on domestic investment ahead of trade policy. But it seems like pushing trade policy into some unknown time in the future will make it even harder to counter China's trade influence. Can't the administration do both -- focus on domestic investment while also developing stronger trade relations with our allies, especially those within our hemisphere?
- President Biden has a deep understanding of the strategic importance of strong relations with Latin America. Can you give us a sense of some of the administration's priorities in Central and South America?